

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A biopsy needle ~~of the biopsy type or for taking other samples from human or animal organs~~, comprising an external cannula and a closing stem ~~which can adapted to slide inside the cannula, characterized in that wherein~~ the cannula (~~1; 101; 201; 301; 401~~) has, ~~for a certain stretch~~ in the vicinity of the an opening, one portion having a relatively small thickness (~~s~~) and one portion of larger thickness (~~s1~~) set at the a penetrating mouth of the cannula, the two portions of cannula of different thickness forming together a step (~~1-D; 101-D; 201-D; 301-D; 401-D~~) set inside the cannula and developed along a plane (W) inclined with respect to the an axis (~~X-X; X1-X1~~) of the cannula; and in that inserted between the cannula (~~1; 101; 201; 301; 401~~) and the stem (~~3; 103; 203; 303; 403~~) is a withholding element (~~5; 105; 205; 305; 405~~) ~~which can adapted to slide axially independently of the stem and of the cannula~~, and which has, in the vicinity of the mouth of the cannula, one end provided with a ~~tab-like~~ an extension (~~5C; 105C; 205C; 305C; 405C~~), ~~which, with its said extension~~ sliding with respect to the cannula and in the direction of the mouth of the cannula, is said extension designed to engage with said inclined step (~~1-D; 101-D; 201-D; 301-D; 401-D~~) and to undergo deflection so as to close the mouth of the cannula and to withhold a tissue specimen inside the needle.

2. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according, to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said tab-like extension (~~5C; 105C; 205C; 305C; 405C~~) has a restricted region (~~5D; 105D; 205D; 305D; 405D~~) for connection with the withholding element (~~5; 105; 205; 305; 405~~) so as to facilitate said deflection.

3. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said deflection of said ~~tab-like~~ extension (5C, 105C, 205C, 305C, 405C) takes place beyond the elastic limit of the latter and is generally permanent, in such a way that at least said withholding element (5) is ~~of the~~ disposable type.

4. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~tab-like~~ extension (105C) has side walls (105E) designed to contain the tissue specimen laterally.

5. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the external cannula (1, 101) has a polygonal cross section, ~~for example a square cross section.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the external cannula has a rounded cross section, ~~for example a circular or elliptical cross section.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to at least claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a sliding element (307, 407) designed to be set in contrast with the ~~tab~~ (305C, 405C) extension to re-open said ~~tab~~ extension so as to facilitate extraction of the tissue specimen without damaging it.

8. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 1 and ~~particularly suited~~ adapted for taking intra-osseous samples, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cannula has a penetrating end which is truncated at right angles with respect to the axis of the needle and is provided with a serrated edge, and in that the closing stem ~~(413)~~ has a faceted tip.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~tab-like~~ extension ~~(105C)~~ has side walls ~~(105E)~~ designed to contain the tissue specimen laterally.

11. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~tab-like~~ extension ~~(105C)~~ has side walls ~~(105E)~~ designed to contain the tissue specimen laterally.

12. (Currently Amended) The biopsy needle according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~it comprises~~ further comprising a sliding element ~~(307, 407)~~ designed to be set in contrast with the ~~tab~~ extension ~~(305C, 405C)~~ to re-open said ~~tab~~ extension so as to facilitate extraction of the tissue specimen without damaging it.